

Storm Water Pollution Prevention

Best Management Practices (BMPs) for Rooftop Work

Storm Water Is Important To All Of Us

Throughout Charlotte and Mecklenburg County, storm drains flow directly into our creeks and lakes. That means anything dumped down a storm drain goes directly to our creeks and lakes and can negatively impact water quality.

Storm Water Services has many programs to protect water quality. They include enhancement and restoration of waterways, maintenance of the storm drainage system, enforcement of pollution control regulations and education.



Rooftop Work Problems



Many different activities performed on rooftops can generate pollutants that contaminate our creeks and lakes. Examples include maintenance and cleaning of vents, air conditioning units and cooling towers; roof pressure washing; application of liquid and semi-liquid products; and operation and maintenance of baghouses and filter units.

You may already be implementing many of the best management practices (BMPs) described in this flyer. However, if you discover any potential problem areas, please consider using one or more of the recommended BMPs.

Solutions

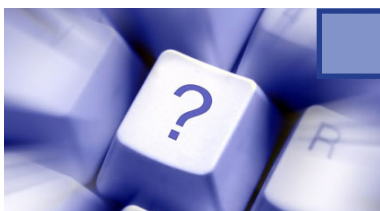
Since preventing pollution is much easier than cleaning up after the fact, the City of Charlotte and Mecklenburg County have adopted ordinances for storm water management. These local ordinances prohibit the discharge of any pollutants into the storm drainage system, streams, lakes, or other surface waters.

Following the best management practices for rooftop work that include the proper handling, storage and disposal of materials can prevent water pollution from your business and prevent fines.



**VIOLATIONS OF THESE ORDINANCES COULD RESULT IN
LOCAL FINES OF UP TO \$10,000 PER DAY, PER EVENT.**

For More Information



To get more information on storm water rules and regulations regarding rooftop work call 311 or visit StormWater.CharMeck.org and click on "Surface Water Quality" then "Pollution Prevention."

Following the tips in this flyer can help stop storm water pollution.

Rooftop Work



HVAC & Refrigeration Work

- Non-contact cooling water, boiler and cooling tower blowdown, and condensate treated with algaecides or other products must be discharged to the sanitary sewer, otherwise a permit to discharge to the stormwater system must be obtained.
- If chemicals are used to clean air conditioner coils, the wash water may not be discharged to the stormwater system (even if a biodegradable product is used).
- Condenser tube flushing liquid must be captured and disposed of to the sanitary sewer.

Kitchen Exhaust Cleaning

- Ensure that the grease collection device is properly designed and sized to collect all grease discharged through the exhaust system.
- Use a device that has a replaceable grease diaper or filter, and change them out as needed.
- Wastewater generated during the cleaning of exhaust systems may not be allowed to discharge to the stormwater system. Collect all wash water and dump it into a drain that leads to a grease interceptor.
- Conduct regular inspections and maintenance of exhaust systems to minimize grease buildup that otherwise can lead to messy cleanups.
- Use high-efficiency, disposable exhaust hood filters that prevent grease from reaching exhaust ducts in the first place.



Product Application

- Apply products such as waterproofing agents, coatings and sealants so they have plenty of time to dry and cure before the next rain event.
- Cover and berm off roof drains to prevent products from entering them during the application process.
- Do not clean application equipment where the wash water may enter the stormwater system.

General Cleanup & Pressure Washing

- When pressure washing or conducting other cleanup that generates wash water, do not allow the runoff to enter the stormwater system. Block all roof drains, collect the water and dispose of it in the sanitary sewer.
- Before pressure washing, use dry cleanup methods such as sweeping first to remove buildup of dirt, leaves, and other materials that have settled on the roof.
- Conduct routine inspections and maintenance on systems that are sources of pollutants such as dust collectors, exhaust systems and vents.



Visit StormWater.CharMeck.org and click on "Surface Water Quality" then "Pollution Prevention" for more information.